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FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK189
TO RODMAN/LORD FOR DR KISSINGER
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TOHAK 189
FEBRUARY 15, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM
SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE POST, TIMES, AND SUN ALL HEADLINE YESTERDAY'S COMMUNIQUE
ON A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH
VIETNAM.

THE WASHINGTON POST

MURREY WARDER REPORTS THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE U.S.-NORTH VIET-
NAM JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH
VIETNAM. THE WASHINGTON-HANOI 800-WORD COMMUNIQUE ISSUED USED
EXTREMELY CORDIAL LANGUAGE FOR TWO NATIONS THAT SIGNED A CEASE-
FIRE ON JANUARY 27. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED A
POSSIBLE STRUGGLE WITH CONGRESS OVER PROJECTED BILLIONS OF
DOLLARS IN POSTWAR AID FOR INDOCHINA. THE COMMUNIQUE ITSELF
STATED THAT YOU AND VARIOUS NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS "DIS-
CUSSED VARIOUS IMPERATIVE MEASURES" TO "IMPROVE AND EXPEDITE"
CARRYING OUT THE CEASE-FIRE. AT THE WHITE HOUSE, ZIEGLER
EXPLAINED IN PART THE URGENT CALL IN THE COMMUNIQUE FOR "FULL
AND SCRUPULOUS IMPLEMENTATION" OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. HE
SAID THE "U.S. CONSIDERS AN EARLY CEASE-FIRE IN LAOS A MATTER
OF GREAT URGENCY, AND WE EXPECT SUCH A CEASE-FIRE TO TAKE
EFFECT IN A MATTER OF DAYS." HE MADE NO MENTION OF CAMBODIA.
ZIEGLER ADDED THAT NO "DOLLAR FIGURES" WERE DISCUSSED BY YOU
IN HANOI, AND THAT THE AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE JOINT ECONOMIC
COMMISSION WILL BE NOMINATED WITHIN TWO WEEKS AND SAID YOU
INDICATED THAT THE GROUP "SHOULD BE ORGANIZED IN ABOUT A
MONTH." (A-1)

CONGRESSMAN H. R. GROSS IMMEDIATELY LABELED THE WASHINGTON-
HANOI COMMISSION "THE CONDUIT FOR THE HANDOUT." GROSS SAID
OF CONGRESS: "WE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT
SETTING UP A CONDUIT, BUT WE'LL HAVE A WHOLE LOT TO SAY ABOUT
WHAT GOES INTO IT. I'M OPPOSED TO PAYING THEM ANYTHING."

ZIEGLER ALSO NOTED YOUR STOP IN TOKYO AFTER PEKING AND THAT
YOU PLAN TO HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER YOUR RETURN. (A-1)

PRESIDENT NIXON, FACED WITH AN UPROAR FROM CONGRESS AND SOME
VETERANS GROUPS, YESTERDAY ORDERED THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
TO WITHDRAW ITS PLAN TO SAVE \$100 MILLION BY CUTTING BENEFITS
FOR DISABLED VIETNAM QIS. (A-1)

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THE DEVALUED U.S. DOLLAR WAS HIT BY A WAVE OF SELLING IN RE-OPENED FOREIGN MONEY MARKETS YESTERDAY, BUT IT HELD UP BETTER THAN EXPECTED IN MOST EXCHANGES. IN LONDON AND ZURICH, GOLD WENT UP TO \$72.13 AN OUNCE FROM THE FORMER RECORD OF \$70 AN OUNCE, SET LAST AUGUST. THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT DEALING PRICE OF GOLD IS \$42.22, UP FROM \$38. MONEY MARKETS CONTINUE TO BE NERVOUS AND IT IS STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT THE DEVALUATION OF THE DOLLAR WILL BRING A HALT TO THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CRISIS. (A-1)

THE U.S.-CUBAN ANTIHIJACKING AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED IN WASHINGTON AND HAVANA TODAY. U.S. OFFICIALS SAY THE AGREEMENT IS VERY SATISFACTORY AND WILL SERVE AS BOTH A REAL AND A PSYCHOLOGICAL DETERRENT TO HIJACKING. HOWEVER, THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT AFFECT THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN POSITION CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEES FROM CUBA. (A-3)

A POST EDITORIAL SEES RECONSTRUCTION AID TO NORTH VIETNAM BECOMING THE MOST TORTURED ISSUE IN THE POSTWAR PERIOD. IT ALSO NOTES THE APPARENT GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION OF RETURNING U.S. POWS AS BRINGING TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE A POLITICALLY USEFUL MEASURE OF GOOD WILL. THE JOYFUL RETURN OF THESE MEN IS CONTRASTED AGAINST THE GRIM AND GAUNT COMMUNIST PRISONERS RELEASED BY SAIGON. NOTING THAT THE SAME GENERAL ATTITUDE WHICH LED TO A DISPROPORTIONATE NUMBER OF POOR, LESS EDUCATED AND BLACK AMERICANS TO BE SENT TO FIGHT AND DIE IN VIETNAM IS AFFECTING THE SURVIVORS AT HOME, THE POST NOTES THE INCREDIBLE PROPOSAL TO REDUCE FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VIETNAM AMPUTEES. THE ISSUE OF AMNESTY IS ALSO TOUCHED UPON. THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT THE POST INTENDS TO ELABORATE ITS OWN VIEW ON THIS ISSUE ON ANOTHER OCCASION. x 11

EDWIN REISCHAUER WRITES OF THE TWO VIETNAM PACTS. ONE IS THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN FORCES AND THE RETURN OF POWS, BOTH WITHIN 60 DAYS, DURING WHICH TIME THE FOUR PARTIES INVOLVED WILL DESERVE A CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE. THE OTHER AGREEMENT IS THE SETTING UP BY THE TWO "SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES" OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND CONCORD. IN EFFECT, THE PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF SOUTH VIETNAM. HE SEES ONE ENDANGERING THE OTHER BY ASKING THE CRUCIAL QUESTION OF WHETHER WE HAVE ENDANGERED THE WISE AND ESSENTIAL FIRST AGREEMENT BY WRAPPING IT UP WITH THE UNREALISTIC SECOND ONE. (A-20)

MAXINE CHESHIRE NOTES YOU ARE ONE OF WASHINGTON'S MOST ENTHUSIASTIC PANDA-WATCHERS. YOU HAVE BEEN TO THE NATIONAL ZOO THREE TIMES TO SEE HSING-HSING AND LING-LING HAVE BREAKFAST. IN THE MEANTIME, KISSINGER-WATCHERS ARE MAINTAINING THEIR WATCH ON YOUR EATING HABITS. YOU DINED AT RIVE GAUCHE WITH KAREN LERNER PRIOR TO GOING TO HANOI. (C-2)

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THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERNARD GWERTZMAN REVIEWS YESTERDAY'S JOINT COMMUNIQUE. HE NOTES THAT WITH CONGRESS IN RECESS THIS WEEK, THERE WAS LITTLE REACTION TO THE COMMUNIQUE. HOWEVER, REPRESENTATIVE H. R. GROSS SAID: "I'M OPPOSED TO PAYING THEM ANYTHING." (A-1)

THE FLOATING OF THE JAPANESE YEN TOUCHED OFF A FIERCE DEBATE IN THE JAPANESE PARLIAMENT, WITH THE OPPOSITION DEMANDING THE RESIGNATION OF PREMIER TANAKA. TANAKA PROMPTLY DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MOVE, PLACING THE BLAME DIRECTLY ON THE UNITED STATES AND PLEADING IGNORANCE OF PREDEVALUATION CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN HIS FINANCE MINISTER AND THE CHIEF AMERICAN NEGOTIATOR. (A-1)

FLORA LEWIS CONTENDS THAT THE RECONSTRUCTION AID TO NORTH VIETNAM WILL BE A TOOL WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES HOPES TO WEDGE THE NORTH INTO A POSITION OF DESIRING TO MAINTAIN PEACE LONG AFTER THE LAST AMERICAN SOLDIER AND POW HAVE GONE HOME. AS FOR THE AID TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE, THE AID WILL BECOME A MAJOR WEAPON AMONG THE RIVALS FOR POLITICAL POWER. REGARDLESS OF WHICH COUNTRY THIS AID COMES FROM, MISS LEWIS SAYS, THE WAY IT IS USED BY THE FACTIONS IN THE SOUTH WILL BE POLITICALLY CRUCIAL. (A-17)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

THE HONG KONG BUREAU OF THE SUN REPORTS YOUR TALKS WITH THE CHINESE WILL INCLUDE EXPANSION OF TRADE AND EXCHANGE OF SCHOLARS, SCIENTISTS, JOURNALISTS, AND ATHLETES. BUT, NO DOUBT YOU WILL DISCUSS THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM TO BE HELD IN PARIS AND POSSIBLY KOREA, SINCE THE NORTH AND SOUTH HAVE MADE A START TOWARDS UNIFICATION. (A-2)

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